

The Chair laid before the House the following veto message of the Governor, returning with the objections thereto House bill No. 631, to be entitled "An act to provide that certified copies of patents, grants and titles as recorded in the General Land Office, and of deeds and other instruments relating to land recorded in any county of this State may be read in evidence as original testimony."

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Austin, Nov. 1, 1871. }

Hon. WM. H. SINCLAIR,

Speaker of the House of Representatives :

SIR: I return for reconsideration to the House of Representatives, where it originated, the act entitled "An act to provide that

certified copies of patents, grants and titles as recorded in the General Land Office, and of deeds and other instruments relating to land recorded in any county of this State may be read in evidence as original testimony."

I am of the opinion that this act, in its effect, has not received from the Legislature that scrutiny it merits. It seems to me that if it becomes a law, it will open the door to all manner of fraudulent imposition in the way of manufactured documentary testimony in land suits. Under this act may be admitted as testimony a copy of a copy, and this to any extent, without notice to the opposite party, and without attempt to account for the absence of the original. As the law now stands, every reasonable opportunity is given to parties litigant for supplying documentary evidence, in good faith lost or destroyed. I therefore trust that the Legislature will, on reconsideration, determine to go no further in that line.

Very respectfully,

EDMUND J. DAVIS, Governor.